

HF Happenings

453

South African Radio League 1925 - 2010 Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga

Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

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The Raouche Rocks in the Mediterranean Sea at Beirut, Lebanon



1 May 2011 - ZS3 Sprint

7 and 8 May - Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO Party

22 May - ZS4 Sprint

25 May - SARL 80 m Club Contest, CW

29 - SARL Digital Contest;

Find the rules in the 2011 SARL Contest Manual

International Marconi Day

Organised by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, the International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24-hour amateur radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi (25 April 1874). It is not a contest, but an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make contacts with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques. This year's event will be held on 30 April, from 00.00 UTC to 23.59 UTC. Details, including information on the relevant Award Certificates and the listing of participating stations, can be found at www.gb4imd.org.uk

Beware bogus requests for help

The RSGB News reports "We have been made aware of a scam that is currently being operated via email to obtain money from unsuspecting radio amateurs.

An email, purporting to be from a well-known amateur and signed with that amateur's first name, explains that they have been mugged in some foreign city, losing passport and money. Needless to say, it requests financial support to get the amateur out of difficulties. The scammers have used several different prominent call signs. Members may like to be aware of this, so that they can ignore such bogus requests.

Russia Joins CEPT

The Russian State Radio Frequencies Commission decided on 10 March 2011 that the Russian Federation shall join CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 and ECC Recommendation (05)06

What have you done today for Amateur Radio to make you proud?





April 2011

22/23 - Two Oceans Marathon
 23/24 - SP DX RTTY Contest
 23/24 April - Helvetia Contest
 25 – Family Day
 26 – School holiday
 27 – Freedom Day
 30 April - Marconi Day
 30 April/1 May - 10-10 International Spring CW Contest

May 2011

1 – Worker's Day; **ZS3 Sprint**
 2 – Public holiday
7 - RTA, Cape Town
8 – Mother's Day
7 and 8 - Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO Party;
 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest
 14 and 15 - VOLTA WW RTTY Contest
19 - Radio Amateur Examination
 20 to 22 - Dayton Hamvention® 2011
 21 and 22 - His Majesty the King of Spain CW Contest; Baltic Contest
22 - ZS4 Sprint
25 - SARL 80 m Club Contest, CW; Africa Day
 28 and 29 - CQ WW WPX CW Contest
29 - SARL Digital Contest;
 Comrades Marathon - Durban to Pietermaritzburg

(CEPT Novice), thus making it possible for every CEPT License holder to operate on the territory of the Russian Federation, within a limit of three months, without any additional permission. The call sign to be used shall be RA/Personal Call sign.

Danny's Digital Packet

UK Radio Amateur Danny Knaggs, 2E0DPK, has developed a new free, open source protocol called 'DDP' that provides a modern alternative to the existing packet radio protocol. DDP interfaces with fldigi to provide the backend. Packets are sent and received in plain text so they can be seen by eye (on the waterfall, console, etc) and for ease of use and implementation.

Article on DDP by Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU <http://www.arrl.org/news/surfin-moving-packets-with-ddp>. You can download Danny's Digital Packet from <http://code.google.com/p/ddp/>. Danny's Digital Voice <http://code.google.com/p/ddv/>

Neighbours upset when poorly designed equipment malfunctions

Poorly designed Internet equipment and TV's are prone to malfunction in the presence of RF, as this Scunthorpe Telegraph story illustrates.

These days RF is everywhere and you would have expected manufacturers of home electronics products to spend a few extra pence/cents to ensure their equipment is fit for purpose. Unfortunately, some do not with the result that unsuspecting consumers can end up with equipment that continually malfunctions. In this Scunthorpe Telegraph story, the neighbours attempt to blame a Radio Amateur, Ken Coxon, GOHDV, instead of the manufacturers of the malfunctioning Internet and TV equipment.

Neighbours want an end to a decade of TV and net interference

Making Waves: Joyce Crawford with the radio aerial that overlooks her garden that she and other residents claim affects their TV, phones and internet.

Residents who say they have suffered a decade of disruption are appealing for a halt to a dispute on the airwaves.





A number of householders in Chapel Road in Broughton claim they have experienced more than ten years of interrupted television signals, bad telephone lines and failed internet connections.

Residents believe the frustrating problems are due to a neighbouring amateur radio broadcaster, as they say the interference only occurs when a transmission is taking place.

Dawn Hilditch of Chapel Road said the situation had brought her and her husband to breaking point.

"When we first moved to our property, the disruption was bearable, but it has got increasingly worse over the years," she said.

"Despite paying for unlimited internet access, we are unable to use it when our neighbour Mr Coxon is broadcasting, which is incredibly frustrating. My son is in the Army in Ireland and my daughter lives away, so it is our main source of communication. When my son is posted to Afghanistan later this year, our internet connection is vital because it is the only way we can speak to him. Without that contact, I will be sick with worry and it will be absolutely horrendous. We have tried everything to resolve the problems - changing internet providers, boosting our signal - but nothing has worked. We never wanted to, and still don't want to fall out with our neighbour, but now I have been told the problem would deem our house unsaleable - because what family would want to buy a property where they cannot get a reliable internet connection?"

Joyce Crawford of Chapel Lane said: "I am a host family for international students studying at John Leggott who rely on the internet to communicate with their families. For quite some time, I did not put the problems I was having with my television and phone down to Mr Coxon's broadcasting, but a number of times I have picked up my landline and heard his voice through the phone. The problem is really irritating because it affects our everyday lives. You feel like you cannot use the equipment such as the television and computer in your own home at your own leisure."

The Scunthorpe Telegraph contacted Ken Coxon, but he declined to comment. An Ofcom official said: "Ofcom has a dedicated team of field engineers. It is their job to investigate cases of interference such as this appears to be and work to resolve them."

Frequency Changes in Azerbaijan

Frequency allocations on 40 and 80 metres have been expanded, and amateur radio operators from Azerbaijan (4J, 4K) are now allowed to use 7 000 - 7 200 kHz and 3 500 - 3 800 kHz.

Mt Athos Visit

"I have just returned from my 2 week visit to Greece and pilgrimage to Mt. Athos," Rick, NE8Z, reports. "Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A, greeted me with open arms. I was able to donate various pieces of radio equipment to his monastery, which will allow him to operate from two or more portable hilltop locations.

SEMDXA members provided him with a new MFJ Keyer, LDG antenna tuner and a Heil BM-10 headset. Budd, W3FF, and his son Chris donated a complete Buddipole Antenna system. The ARRL donated eight logbooks, band plan charts and a backpack for the portable equipment transportation. Both portable locations have clear 360-degree views to all directions unlike the Docheiariou Monastery, which has a large mountain blocking signals to and from Asia.

Father Apollo is presently active on the radio daily between 17:00 - 21:00 UTC on 160, 30, 17 and 12 metres CW, SSB and RTTY. He is building a new amateur radio shack, which will be ready in a few months. Once he is in the new QTH he will install his new 40 foot tubular tower





and a Step-IR 3 element yagi that was donated to him by Dominik, DL5EBE". Slideshow on the SEMDXA website at http://live.semdxa.org/tiki-list_file_gallery.php?galleryId=24

African DX

Ghana, 9G. Kees, PE1KL, and Lisa, PA2LS, will be active as 9G5LK from Ghana from 28 April to 6 May. They will operate SSB, digital modes and CW on 80 - 10 metres. QSL via PA2LS, direct or bureau, and LoTW. They have a website at www.pe1kl-pa2ls.com

Zambia, 9J. Chris, ZS6RI, is active as 9J2RI from Zambia for a year or two on a "6-week on/6-week off" work schedule. According to his qrz.com entry, direct cards should be sent to Chris J. de Beer, Box 333, Bethlehem, GA 30620, USA. He will upload his log to LoTW at least once every 6-week rotation, and probably even weekly. Bureau cards will be sent once a year.

Senegal, 6W. Fernando, 6W/EA1BT, will be active from 3 to 12 May. QSL via homecall.

African Islands on the Air

Madagascar, 5R. Giorgio, IZ4AKS will be active as 5R8KS from Nosy Be (AF-057) from 31 May to 6 June. He plans to operate holiday style on 40 - 10 metres CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via IZ8IYX. Further information at www.dxccoffee.com/5r8ks/

Special Event

Austria. The Amateur Radio Section of ORF (the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) and the Documentary Archives Radio Communications/QSL Collection will operate special event station OE11M from 29 April to 1 May. This is an official "International Marconi Day" station and contacts made on 30 April will be valid for the IMD Award. QSL via the OE bureau or direct to OE1WHC.

Kazakhstan. UN50, UO50, UP50, UQ50 will be active in Kazakhstan from April 2011 to 31 May 2011 celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the first human flight to outer space which was done by Yuri Gagarin. To commemorate this event Kazakhstan information website "UN Amateur Radio News" together with the Almaty Amateur Radio League has established a special award - "The Columbus of the Cosmos."

Poland. The special call sign SQ100MSC remembers Maria Skodowska-Curie from 1 May until 31 July. She was the very first woman to win a Nobel Prize in 1911 (chemistry). Please send your QSLs direct to his QSL manager SP5XSL and enclose a SAE and a new IRC or two US Dollar.

More information about the Maria Skodowska-Curie award can be found at <http://qrz.com/db/sq100msc>

The Netherlands. The International Short Wave League (ISWL) celebrates its 65th jubilee. Fred, PAOFAW, will activate the special call sign PC65ISWL especially on the digital modes and CW from 1 to 28 May. When you hear him on SSB it is very likely that he is working from the nature reserve WFF PA-005.





Czech Republic. Members of the radio club OK1KWN will activate OL950CHEB throughout the month of May to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the city of Cheb. QSL via bureau or direct to OK1MO. Visit <http://www.mestocheb.eu>. You can have also an eQSL but only for digital modes.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 25 April to 2 May 2011.

Low Power Spring Sprint

14:00 UTC-20:00 UTC 25 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op Single Band; Single Op Two/Three Band; Single Op All Band

Max power: A: 1 watt; C: 5 watts; Q: 25 watts; X: 50 watts; Y: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and 4-character grid square and power category (A/C/Q/X/Y)

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with same continent; 9 points per QSO with different continent; 18 points per QSO with OM station

Multipliers: Each grid square once per band; Each prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 May 2011

E-mail logs to: om3kfv[at]zoznam[dot]sk

Mail logs to: Radioklub OM3KFV, PO Box 3, 038 61 Vrutky, Slovakia

Find rules at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/lowpowerSpringsprint2010.pdf>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band;

Bonus Points: 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; Bonus Points: 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 29 April 2011

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC 27 April and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, Low or High

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name, state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 30 April 2011

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40 and 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts





Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 May 2011

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Nebraska QSO Party

11:00 UTC 30 April to 17:00 UTC 1 May

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 m

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single; Mobile

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NE: RS(T) and county; non-NE: RS(T), state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode per NE county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW or digital QSO

Multipliers: NE Stations: Each NE county, state, province, DXCC country once; Non-NE: Each county once

Power: High: x 1, Low: x 2, QRP: x 3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x power mult

Submit logs by: 31 May 2011

E-mail logs to: nqp[at]hdxq[dot]net

Mail logs to: HDXA NQP, PO Box 375; Elkhorn, NE 68022-0375, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.hdxq.net/neqso/neqso.htm>

Florida QSO Party

16:00 UTC 30 April to 01: 59 UTC 1 May and

12:00 - 21:59 UTC 1 May

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, phone or mixed - QRP, Low or High; Multi-Single - CW, phone or mixed - QRP, Low or High; Multi-Multi - CW, phone or mixed - QRP, Low or High; Mobile Single Op - CW, phone or mixed - QRP, Low or High; Mobile Single Op and Driver - CW, phone or mixed - QRP, Low or High; School - CW, phone or mixed - QRP, Low or High; SWL

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: FL: RS(T) and county; W/VE: RS(T) and state or province; DX: RS(T) and DXCC prefix

Work stations: Once per band per mode per FL county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: FL Stations: Each state, VE province/territory, DXCC country, maritime region once per mode; Non-FL: Each county once per mode

Power: High: x 1, Low: x 2, QRP: x 3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x power mult

Submit logs by: 31 May 2011

E-mail logs to: logs[at]floridagsoparty[dot]org

Mail logs to: Florida QSO Party, c/o Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ, 5362 Castleman Dr., Sarasota, FL 34232, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.floridagsoparty.org/rules.html>

BARTG Sprint 75

17:00 UTC-21:00 UTC 30 April

Mode: 75 Baud RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op Expert; Single Op All Band

Exchange: Serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: DXCC countries once regardless of band; JA, W, VE and VK areas once regardless of band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x continents

Submit logs by: 1 June 2011

E-mail logs to: logs[at]bartg[dot]org[dot]uk





Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.bartg.org.uk/documents/Contests/sprint75/BARTG%20Sprint%2075%20Rules%20April.pdf>

AGCW QRP/QRP Party

13:00 - 19:00 UTC 1 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: 5 W (A); 10 W (B)

Exchange: RST, QSO no, "/" and Class ID (A or B)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with class B; 2 points per QSO with class A

Multipliers: DXCC countries once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 May 2011

E-mail logs to: qrp-party[at]agcw[dot]de

Mail logs to: Manager Jo (Juergen) Mertens, DJ4EY, Am Muehlenbruch 32, D-59581 Warstein, Germany

Find rules at:

<http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:QRP-QRP-Party>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB

19:00 UTC-20:30 UTC 2 May

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 9 May 2011

Upload log at:

<http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2011/r80mc_c.shtml

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 3 May

MIE 33 Contest, 11:00 - 15:00 UTC 4 May; 23:00 UTC 4 May to 03:00 UTC 5 May

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 May

10-10 International Spring CW Contest, 00:01 UTC 7 May to 23:59 UTC 8 May

VK/Trans-Tasman 80 m Contest, Phone, 08:00 - 14:00 UTC 7 May

7th Call Area QSO Party, 13:00 UTC 7 May to 07:00 UTC 8 May

Indiana QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 7 May to 04:00 UTC 8 May

New England QSO Party, 20:00 UTC 7 May to 05:00 UTC 8 May 13:00 - 24:00 UTC 8 May

ARI International DX Contest, 20:00 UTC 7 May to 19:59 UTC 8 May

SKCC Weekend Sprint, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 8 May

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint, 18:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 May

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 25 April 2011.

1507 - M. Waldseemuller of Germany names 'Amerige' to the part of the globe we know as America

1770 - Captain Cook lands at Botany Bay, Australia

1789 - The Mutiny on the "Bounty" occurred, and the ship sailed to Pitcairn Island

1791 - Samuel Morse is born in Charlestown, Mass. USA

1809 - Australia's first Post Office opens in Sydney





- 1813 - The patent for rubber was given to J.F. Hummel of Philadelphia, PA
1865 - The SS Sultana exploded, 1 450 - 2 000 die. It is the worst shipping disaster in US history
1879 - Electric arc lights used for the first time in Cleveland, Ohio
1884 - Lismore's first phone call from the Royal Hotel to the Post Office
1900 - Marconi International Marine Communication Company Ltd. formed
1900 - Marconi receives Patent 7777 for tuned coupled circuits
1904 - Hulsemeyer in Germany, patents the first 'radar' system
1915 - Gallipoli Landings - an ill-fated but heroic campaign commenced
1986 - At 01:23 Ukraine time, the Chernobyl atomic power station exploded

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

